THE

Prince of Orange

HIS THIRD

DECLARATION.

WE have in the courſe of our whole Life, and more particularly by the apparent Hazards both by Sea and Land, to which we have ſo lately expoſed our Perſon, given to the whole World ſo high and undoubted Proofs of our fervent Zeal for the Proteſtant Religion, that we are fully confident no true Engliſhman and good Proteſtant can entertain the leaſt Suſpicion of our firm Reſolution, rather to ſpend our deareſt Blood and periſh in the Attempt, than not carry on the Bleſſed and Glorious Deſign which by the Favour of Heaven we have ſo ſucceſsfully begun, to reſcue *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, from Slavery and Popery, and in a Free Parliament to eſtabliſh the Religion, the Laws and the Liberties of thoſe Kingdoms upon ſuch a ſure and laſting Foundation, that it ſhall not be in the Power of any Prince for the future to introduce Popery and Tyranny.

Towards the more eaſie Compaſſing this great Deſign, we have not been hitherto deceived in the juſt Expectation we had of the Concurrence of the Nobility, Gentry, and People of *England*, with Us for the Security of their Religion, the Reſtitution of their Laws, and the Re-eſtabliſhment of their Liberties and Properties: Great Numbers of all Ranks and

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Qualities, having joyned themselves to us; and others at great Distances from Us, have taken up Arms and declared for Us. And, which we cannot but particularly mention, in that Army which was raised to be the Instrument of Slavery and Popery; many (by the special Providence of God) both Officers and common Souldiers have been touched with such a feeling sense of Religion and Honour, and of true Affection for their Native Country, that they have already deserted the Illegal Service they were ingaged in, and have come over to Us, and have given us full Assurance from the rest of the Army, that they will certainly follow this Example, assoon as with our Army we shall approach near enough to receive them, without the Hazzard of being prevented and betray'd. To which end, and that we may the sooner execute this just and necessary Design we are ingaged in for the publick Safety and Deliverance of these Nations, We are resolved with all possible Diligence to advance forward, that a Free Parliament may be forthwith called, and such Preliminaries adjusted with the King, and all things first settled upon such a foot according to Law, as may give Us and the whole Nation just Reason to believe the King is disposed to make such necessary Condescentions on his part, as will give intire Satisfaction and Security to all, and make both King and People once more happy.

And that we may effect all this, in the way most agreeable to our Desires, if it be possible without the Effusion of any Blood, except of those execrable Criminals who have justly forfeited their Lives for betraying the Religion and subverting the Laws of their Native Country, We do think fit to declare, that as we will offer no Violence to any but in our own Necessary Defence; so we will not suffer any Injury to be done to the Person even of a Papist, provided he be found in such Place, and in such Condition and Circumstances as the Laws require. So we are resolved and do declare that all Papists, who shall be found in open Arms, or with Arms in their Houses, or about their Persons, or in any Office or Imployment Civil or Military upon any Pretence whatsoever contrary to the known Laws of the Land, shall be treated by Us and our Forces not as Souldiers and Gentlemen, but as Robbers, Free-Booters and *Banditti*; they shall be incapable

capable of Quarter, and intirely delivered up to the Diſcretion of our Souldiers. And We do further declare that all Perſons who ſhall be found any ways aiding and aſſiſting to them, or ſhall march under their Command, or ſhall joyn with or ſubmit to them in the Diſcharge or Execution of their Illegal Commiſſions or Authority, ſhall be looked upon as Partakers of their Crimes, Enemies to the Laws, and to their Country.

And whereas we are certainly informed that great Numbers of armed Papiſts have of late reſorted to *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and parts adjacent, where they remain, as we have reaſon to ſuſpect, not ſo much for their own Security, as out of a wicked and barbarous Deſign to make ſome deſperate Attempt upon the ſaid Cities, and their Inhabitants by Fire, or a ſudden Maſſacre, or both; or elſe to be the more ready to joyn themſelves to a Body of French Troops, deſigned, if it be poſſible, to land in *England*, procured of the French King, by the Intereſt and Power of the Jeſuits in Purſuance of the Engagements, which at the Inſtigation of that peſtilent Society, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, with one of his Neighbouring Princes of the ſame Communion, has entered into for the utter Extirpation of the Proteſtant Religion out of Europe. Though we hope we have taken ſuch effectual care to prevent the one, and ſecure the other, that by God's Aſſiſtance, we cannot doubt but we ſhall defeat all their wicked Enterpriſes and Deſigns.

We cannot however forbear out of the great and tender Concern We have to preſerve the People of *England*, and particularly thoſe great and populous Cities, from the cruel Rage and bloody Revenge of the Papiſts, to Require and expect from all the Lord-Lieutenants, Deputy-Lieutenants, and Juſtices of Peace, Lord-Mayors, Mayors, Sheriffs, and all other Magiſtrates and Officers Civil and Military, of all Counties, Cities and Towns of *England*, eſpecially of the County of *Middleſex*, and Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and Parts adjacent, that they do immediately diſarm and ſecure, as by Law they may and ought, within their reſpective Counties, Cities and Juriſdictions, All Papiſts whatſoever, as Perſons at all times, but now eſpecially, moſt dangerous to the Peace and Safety of the Government, that ſo

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not only all Power of doing miſchief may be taken from them; but that the Laws, which are the greateſt and beſt Security may reſume their Force, and be ſtrictly Executed.

And We do hereby likewiſe Declare that We will Protect and Defend all thoſe who ſhall not be afraid to do their Duty in Obedience to theſe Laws. And that for thoſe Magiſtrates and others of what condition ſoever they be, who ſhall refuſe to aſſiſt Us, and in Obedience to the Laws to Execute vigorouſly what we have required of them, and ſuffer themſelves at this Junctuure to be cajoled or terrified out of their Duty, We will eſteem 'em the moſt Criminal and Infamous of all Men, Betrayers of their Religion, the Laws, and their native Country, & ſhall not fail to treat 'em accordingly; reſolving to expect and require at their hands the Life of every ſingle Proteſtant that ſhall periſh, and every Houſe that ſhall be burnt or deſtroyed by their Treachery and Cowardiſe.

William Henry, Prince of Orange.

By his Highneſs ſpecial Command,

C. HUYGENS.

Given under Our Hand and Seal at Our Headquarters at Sherburn-*Caſtle, the* 28*th. day of* November, 1688.